

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10

OES-07 EB-08 AID-05 SP-02 USIA-15 NSC-05 TRSE-00

SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 L-03 H-02 PA-02 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 COME-00 /148 W

-----045032 021734Z /53

R 021230Z AUG 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9901

INFO USUN NEW YORK 5583

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 GENEVA 6508

DEPT FOR AMBASSADOR WILKOWSKI

E O 11652: NA

TAGS: ECOSOC, EGEN, UN

SUBJ: 63RD ECOSOC: ITEM 14 - SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY: GENERAL

DEBATE ON UN CONFERENCE, NETWORK AND UNIDO BANK

REF: GENEVA 5674

1. SUMMARY. THE REMARKS ADDRESSED BY NATIONAL DELEGATIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF UN AGENCIES IN THE ECONOMIC COUNCIL ON ITEM 14, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, WERE AMONG THE MOST SPECIFIC, AND POINTED, OF ANY DURING THIS ECOSOC. CONFERENCE SECRETARY-GENERAL DE COSTA OPENED THE DEBATE WITH AN UPDATE OF HIS REPORT CONTAINED IN DOCUMENT E/6000. IT WAS EVIDENT, FROM AMB YOUNG'S REMARKS ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN GENERAL DEBATE (REFTEL) THAT THE US WAS NOT SATISFIED WITH THE PACE OF CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS, AND WITH THE PREVAILING ORGANIZATIONAL DISPUTES. THIS HAD UNDOUBTEDLY ENCOURAGED OTHER DELEGATIONS TO MAKE POINTED REMARKS IN THE SAME VEIN. CANADA, DENMARK (FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY) AND NEW ZEALAND WERE AMONG THE MOST PROMINENT OF DEVELOPED COUNTRY CRITICS. KENYA WAS THE MOST OUTSPOKEN CRITIC AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THE US DEL, SPEAKING LATE IN DEBATE, ASKED FOR SPECIFIC

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ANSWERS TO MANY QUESTIONS ON CONFERENCE PRPARATIONS, INCLUDING THE ROLE OF THE UN OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (OST). WHILE THE QUESTION OF TECHNOLOGICAL DEPENDENCY WAS RAISED BY BOTH DEVELOPING AND MORE "PROGRESSIVE" DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, ONLY ALGERIA STRESSED THE POLITICAL NATURE OF THE 1979 CONFERENCE AND ITS PLACE IN RESTRUCTURING THE WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER. UNESCO REPRESENTATIVE STRESSED THE NEED OF ENLISTING THE SUPPORT OF

THE WORLD SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY FOR THE  
CONFERENCE, WIPO WAS THE FIRST AGENCY TO OFFER THE PAID SERVICES  
OF AN OFFICIAL TO THE CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT, AND UNCTAD (PATEL)  
ENDED THE DEBATE WITH A HIGHLY POLITICIZED VIEW OF THE CONFERENCE.  
CONFERENCE SECRETARY-GENERAL DE COSTA REPLIED TO HIS INTER-  
LOCUTORS DENYING ALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROBLEMS THEY HAD RAISED.  
END SUMMARY.

2. CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS. COUNTRIES CRITICIZING THE DELAY IN  
CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS, LACK OF INFORMATION OR CONTACTS WITH THE  
SECRETARIAT ON THE NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS INCLUDED VENEZUELA,  
KENYA, DENMARK (FOR THE EC-9), YUGOSLAVIA, NEW ZEALAND, ARGEN-  
TINA, CANADA, JAMAICA, AND THE U.S. ALGERIA WAS THE ONLY OUT-  
SPOKEN DEFENDER OF THE CONFERENCE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND HIS PRE-  
PARATIONS, WHILE THE BRAZILIANS TEMPERED THEIR PRAISE BY NOTING  
THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF THE OST AND THE ACASTD. HIGHLIGHT OF THESE  
CRITICISMS INCLUDED:

KENYA - LOSS OF TIME ON PERSONNEL QUESTIONS IN HURTING DEVELOPING  
COUNTRIES AND MUST STOP, SECRETARIAT HAS FAILED TO SENSITIZE  
GOVERNMENTS.

DENMARK (FOR EC) - "ONE MAY ASK WHETHER THE TIME EXPENDED  
(ON THE QUESTION OF THE LINK WITH OST) HAS LED TO ANY  
ESPECIALLY RATIONAL SOLUTION... THE NINE... INSIST THAT  
STEPS ARE TAKEN IMMEDIATELY TO HAVE THE PROBLEMS SOLVED BEARING  
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IN MIND RESOLUTIONS 2028 AND 2035 OF THE 61ST ECOSOC."

NEW ZEALAND (REFERRING TO DOCUMENT E/6000) - "IT IS OF  
CONSIDERABLE CONCERN TO MY DELEGATION TO NOTE HOW MUCH OF THE  
REPORT ... IS CAST IN THE FUTURE TENSE...SOME OF THE ACTIONS  
REFERRED TO... ARE SO BASIC TO THE ORGANIZATION OF THE  
CONFERENCE THAT WE CANNOT BUT EXPRESS OUR CONCERN THAT THEY  
ARE NOT ALREADY IN FULL OPERATION." CRITICISM ALSO OF LACK  
OF PUBLIC RELATIONS, LACK OF RESPONSE TO OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE,  
CONFUSION ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL AS TO CONFERENCE GOALS, LACK  
OF ORGANIZATION ON THE REGIONAL LEVEL. DOUBT WHETHER DE  
COSTA'S LIAISON ARRANGEMENTS WITH OST CONSTITUTE "A REASONALBE  
APPLICATION" OF RES 2028 (LXI). SUPPORT FOR A DEPUTY, IF THERE  
IS A MORE CLEAR PICTURE OF CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS.

CANADA - "DISMAY" AT SLOW PROGRESS, HOPE THAT CONFERENCE SYG  
"MIGHT NOW SEE HIS WAY" TO RESPONDE TO OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE;  
NEED TO FULLY USE UN CAPACITY. CANADA WILL ESTABLISH A FOCAL  
POINT BUT WILL CONTINUE TO USE NORMAL CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION.  
THE EASTERN BLOC COUNTRIES (USSR, UKRAINE, CZECHOSLOVAKIA,  
BULGARIA, POLAND) STRESSED THE NEED FOR USING EXISTING UN  
FACILITIES FOR CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS, A CALL WHICH

COMBINED THEIR PREVAILING OBSESSION WITH ECONOMY WITH  
REAL CONCERN FOR THE PROPER USE OF THE UN OFFICE OF SCIENCE  
AND TECHNOLOGY WHICH, THE USSR STATED, SHOULD DEVOTE ALL ITS  
EFFORTS TO CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS. THE SOVIETS ALSO NOTED  
THE GUIDELINES WERE "JUST RECOMMENDATIONS."

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3. CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS - US REMARKS. US DEL SPOKE LATE IN  
DISCUSSION, AFTER MAJOR CRITICISMS NOTED ABOVE HAD BEEN MADE.  
AFTER PRAISE FOR WORK OF THE TASK FORCE ON THE NETWORK, AND  
WELCOME TO DECISION ON UNIDO BANK, PRINCIPAL REMARKS WERE  
DIRECTED TO CONFERENCE. US DEL ANNOUNCED APPOINTMENT OF AMB  
WILKOWSKI AS CONFERENCE COORDINATOR, AND REFERRED TO AMB YOUNG'S  
REMARKS, INCLUDING THOSE ON US OFFER TO HOST CONFERENCE. WE  
NOTED OUR AGREEMENT WITH REMARKS OF MAJOR CRITICS OF CONFERENCE  
PREPARATIONS. WE ASKED FOR A FURTHER UPDATING OF CONFERENCE SYG'S  
REPORT (WHICH WAS LATER PROMISED FOR THE GA) AND POINTED TO THE  
FOLLOWING QUESTIONS FOR WHICH WE SOUGHT ANSWERS: DEGREE OF STIMU-  
LATION OF NATIONAL INTEREST, NATURE OF ROSTER OF ADVISORS,  
REINFORCEMENT OF REGIONAL COMMISSIONS, RESPONSE TO NATIONAL  
OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE (INCLUDING EXPRESSION OF US INTEREST),  
ENCOURAGEMENT OF NGO'S AND PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION, TAKSK  
AND DUTIES OF OST. WE ESPRESSLY CRITICIZED THE APPOINTMENT OF  
A LIAISON OFFICER WITH OST, NOTED THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS  
FOR ADVISORS FOR THE NATIONAL PAPERS, AND FOR A DEPUTY SECRETARY-  
GENERAL. CONCLUSION SUGGESTED THAT CONTINUED US INTEREST IN THE  
CONFERENCE WOULD DEPEND ON PROGRESS MADE. FULL TEXT POUCHED TO  
IO/SCT- LANCETTI.

4. VARIOUS RELATED THEMES. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ILO, THE

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NORDIC COUNTRIES (SWEDEN AS SPOKESMAN), THE NETHERLANDS AND COLOMBIA SUPPORTED THE BASIC NEEDS APPROACH. THE PROBLEM OF TECHNOLOGICAL DEPENDENCY WAS RAISED BY MANY DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING CUBA AND ALGERIA (THE MOST STRIDENT), COLOMBIA, VENEZUELA, SWEDEN (FOR THE NORDICS), ARGENTINA, THE NETHERLANDS, JAMAICA AND UNCTAD, WITH SOME LATINS STRESSING THE NEED FOR A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY. THE IMPORTANCE OF ENLISTING THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY FOR CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS WAS NOTED BY UNESCO AND AUSTRIA, WHILE THE FRG, CANADA AND THE NETHERLANDS (AS WELL AS THE US) NOTED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR, INCLUDING BUSINESS AND LABOR. SWEDEN STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PREPARATORY PERIOD (AS DID THE US). MEXICO STRESSED ITS OFFER TO HOST THE CONFERENCE, WHILE THE US AND AUSTRIA RECALLED THEIR OFFERS IN A LOW-KEY MANNER. THE PHILIPPINES DID NOT MENTION THEIR OFFER, ALTHOUGH IT STILL STANDS.

5. REMARKS ON THE NETWORK INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING - COLOMBIA ASKED FOR "AUTOMATIC INFORMATION ON THE TECHNOLOGY MARKET; VENEZUELA (LIKE THE PHILIPPINES, ARGENTINA AND FRANCE) PRAISED THE WORK OF THE TASK FORCE, AND SAW THE NETWORK AS A "COMPONENT OF A GLOBAL SYSTEM OF TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY" WHILE THE MEXICANS SAW IT AS AN "OPEN ENDED SYSTEM" AND STRESSED LINKS BETWEEN NATIONALLY CENTERED SYSTEMS; THE USSR CALLED FOR EXAMINATION OF NETWORK PROGRESS AT THE 65TH ECOSOC (AS OPPOSED TO SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE RESUMED 63RD ECOSOC MADE BY US AND ALGERIA), FRG SPOKE FAVORABLY OF THE PILOT DIRECTORY AND WELCOMED FURTHER DISCUSSION, BUT EXPRESSED DOUBTS AS TO FEASIBILITY OF THE NETWORK CONCEPT. THE UNIDO REPRESENTATIVE NOTED THE UNIDO BANK WAS A PART OF THE NETWORK AND THAT IT USED EXISTING EXPERTISE, BUT HAD TO DEFEND THE BANK AGAINST NETHERLANDS DELEGATION'S FEARS IT WOULD PROMOTE CENTRALIZATION OF INFORMATION. VANDEN HEUVEL

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## Message Attributes

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